

MEDIA RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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B-25 Mitchell to visit during 2009 open house

ELLSWORTH AFB, S.D. – At this year's open house and air show the 28th Bomb Wing will welcome a B-25 Mitchell to the runway, May 30 and 31. The public will have a chance to examine this World War II era bomber each day.

During World War II, the B-25 was used for multiple missions throughout both the European and Pacific theatres. It is best known for its historical role in the "Doolittle Raid." Lt. Col. "Jimmy" Doolittle led the formation of B-25 Mitchell bombers from the aircraft carrier USS Hornet (CV-8) in the first strike against the Japanese home islands. The aircrew, now known as the Doolittle Raiders, attacked military and industrial targets in six Japanese cities including Tokyo.

Today the 34th Bomb Squadron ties its heritage back to these aviation pioneers. Additionally, the South Dakota Air and Space Museum houses a permanent B-25 static display on its grounds. This modified B-25 was used by Gen. Dwight Eisenhower during WWII as his personal transport vehicle in the entire European theatre.

Dakota Thunder '09 is free and open to the public. Gates are scheduled to open at 8 a.m. and close at 5 p.m., May 30 and 31.

For more information about Dakota Thunder '09, contact the 28th Bomb Wing Public Affairs Office at (605) 385-5056. Information can also be found online at www.ellsworth.af.mil and www.daktoathunder.com.

